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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
Monday, March 17, 2003

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Cassis' Principal Residence Package Moves to the House

Bills Receive Unanimous Vote in Senate

LANSING—State Senator Nancy Cassis, R-Novi, addressed the Senate body promoting her eight-bill package that simplifies the state Tax Code by changing the “homestead exemption” to “principal residence exemption”. Senate Bills 129-136 passed the Senate unanimously and move to the House of Representatives for action.

“Confusion between the two sometimes causes taxpayers to not take full advantage of the tax relief they are entitled to and to possibly overpay,” Cassis said. “It is my mission as Finance Chair to help seniors, families, and all Michigan’s taxpayers keep their hard earned money where it belongs- in their wallets.”

Because of the similar wording, new homeowners and people who had just moved to Michigan were often confusing the homestead exemption, which all homeowners qualify for, with the homestead credit which only some qualify.

Cassis, chair of the Senate Finance Committee, introduced the legislation last month in response to complaints from local officials that residents were repeatedly filing their taxes incorrectly. Milford Township Treasurer Cynthia Dagenhardt was one of those officials.

“So many people were coming to my office telling me they made too much money to file for the homestead exemption,” Dagenhardt said. “Our hope is that this will head off more problems before they start.”

Sen. Cassis began working to simplify the Michigan Tax Code two years ago when she shepherded legislation now known as “Cindy’s Law” allowing taxpayers to appeal to their local boards of review for a homestead exemption refund for up to three previous years due to filing errors.

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